2. whether the P. W. D. has recommended for widening and improving this road; if so, when;

3. whether the Government have taken any and if so what steps in that matter?

Mr. V. K. Aravindaksha Menon.—1. (a) It would not be correct to classify it as a very important road.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes.

2. Yes; in 1107.

3. An estimate is being prepared. The work will be included in the next budget if funds permit.

Clearing the Public Tank in Kattur.

470. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether the public tank near the Registry Office and High School at Kattur is now in a filthy condition;

(b) when was this tank cleared last;

(c) whether this is not the only public tank used for bathing by all classes of people in Kattur village?

Mr. P. V. Raphael.—(a) No.

(b) In 1103.

(c) Yes. There are however other water facilities also close by.

Increase of child marriages in the State.

471. Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) whether their attention has been drawn to the statement in the Census Report (Cochin) at page 97 (part 1); "The figures for married females in the age-groups 5—15 and for married males in the group 15—20 are perceptibly higher than in 1921 so that it will appear that the age of marriage has actually been *lowered* during the past decade";

(b) whether they are aware that marriages between the above ages are injurious to the health and morals of the people;

(c) whether they propose to adopt any effective measure to prevent the continuation of this social evil?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—(a) Yes.

(b) This is a matter of opinion.

(c) No.

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—(b). Do they know whether there is a law passed in British India prohibiting Child marriages?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—Yes.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

Mr. P. S. Kesavan Nambudiri.—Do they know on what principle it is passed there?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—We do not know.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—It is said here that the age of marriage has actually been lowered. May I know whether they know in which community it is lowered; or whether it is on an increase?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I am not in a position to say.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Do the Government know that in the Brahmin community the age of marriage has been increased?

Mr. U. Kandar Menon.—I want notice.

The Elementary or Vernacular Education Committee—work of.

472. Mr. C. A. Ouseph.—Will the Government be pleased to place a statement on the table showing.—

(a) the work hitherto done by the Elementary or Vernacular Education Committee;

(b) the date of the Committee's appointment;

(c) the number of meetings held by the Committee?

Mr. I. N. Menon.—(a) The Committee began its regular work only by the 24th Makaram 1108.

The following Gentlemen were examined at Ernakulam.—

1. M. R. Ry. P. Sankaran Nambiyar, Avl., M. A., (Hons.), Professor, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam.

2. M. R. Ry. K. Raman Menon, Avl., M. A., L. T., Headmaster, High School, Ernakulam.

3. M. R. Ry. Kesavan Nayar, Avl., Pandit, Maharaja's College, Ernakulam.

4. M. R. Ry. K. Ayyappan, Avl., B. A., Ernakulam.

5. M. R. Ry. George Chakyamuri, Avl., B. A., B. L., Kumbalangi.

To ascertain public opinion, a public conference was also held at Ernakulam.

For verification of evidences collected 23 schools in the Cochin-Kanayannur Taluk were inspected and notes taken.

The following Gentlemen were examined at Trichur.—

1. M. R. Ry. A. Krishna Warriar, Avl., B. A., L. T., Deputy Inspector of Schools, Vadakkancheri.

2. Mrs. Philip, Headmistress, Girls' High School, Kunnamkulam.

3. M. R. Ry., C. P. Govindan Nayar, Avl., 1st Assistant C. N. N. H. S., Cherpu.

4. M. R. Ry., C. Kunhirama Menon Avl., Trichur.

5. M. R. Ry. T. P. Verghese Avl., M. A., B. Paed. and L. T., Principal, Govt. Training Institution, Trichur.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly